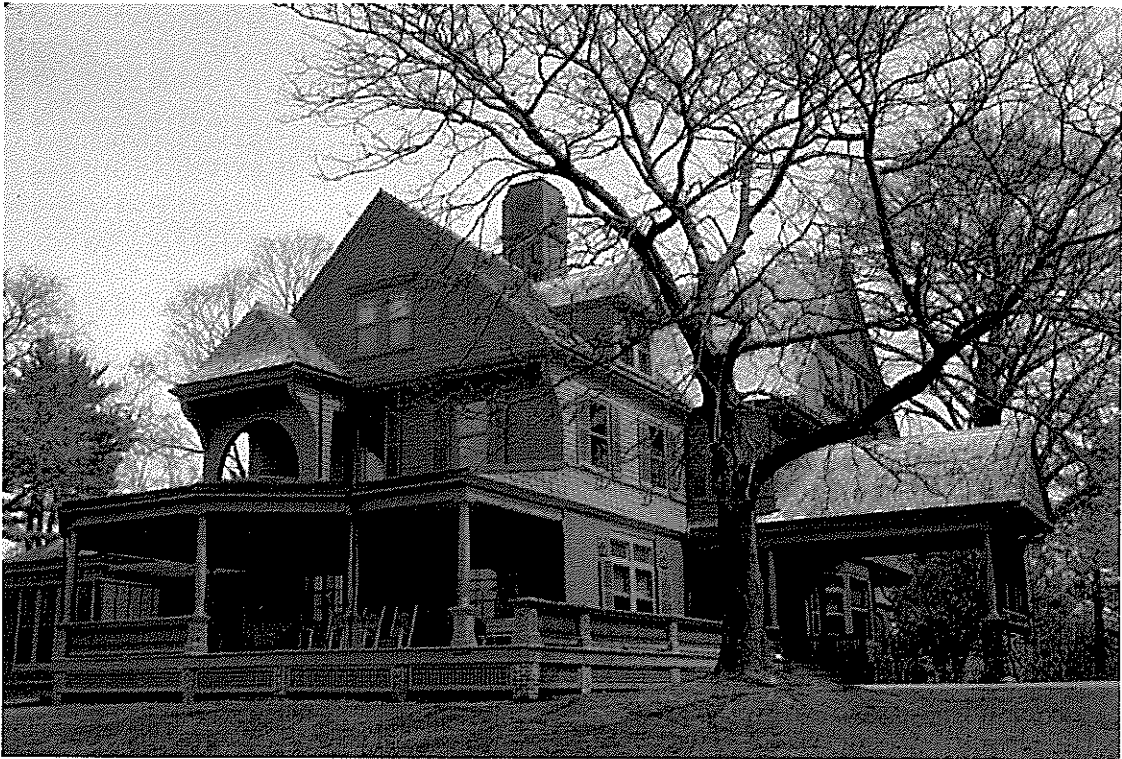


Sagamore Hill National Historic Site



Accessibility Plan 2009

Introduction.

Purpose of the Plan.

The purpose of this plan is to address the physical and structural changes that are required in order to make programs, services and activities accessible to and useable by people with disabilities.

This Plan was created by the staff at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site with the assistance from the Northeast Region Accessibility Coordinator, and individual consultants.

This Plan will be used by the Park as the principle document to guide the process of improving programs and facilities for people with disabilities.

1.2 How the Plan is Organized.

This Plan was designed to address access issues on Structures, and Programs at each of the sites administered by the National Park Service. Each structure or program listed is broken down into three categories; Current Function, Deficiencies, and Solutions.

1.3 Standards That Apply to the Park.

There are a number of access laws, regulations and standards that govern the design and construction of buildings facilities and sites; as well as laws and regulations that require that the programs, services and activities operated or offered by the Park are accessible to and useable by people with disabilities.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

Application of Director's Order No. 42.



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, New York 11771
(516) 922-4788



April 21, 2009

Message from the Superintendent:

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (SAHI), located in Oyster Bay, NY, offers its 50,000 visitors annually a wide range of historical and cultural experiences. The Park offers an extraordinary glimpse into the lives of Theodore Roosevelt, his wife Edith Kermit Carow and their six children. SAHI contains twelve structures of historic, cultural, and aesthetic significance, and covers 83 acres including, woods, farmlands, wetlands, and a beach along our eastern boundary on Cold Spring Harbor (a part of the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service).

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve the cultural and natural resources of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, home of the 26th president, and provide for their public appreciation and enjoyment. SAHI is committed to providing the highest level of access using principles of "universal design" to provide facilities for the greatest number of individuals. We are also obligated to comply with the various legal mandates that require all government agencies to make facilities and programs accessible.

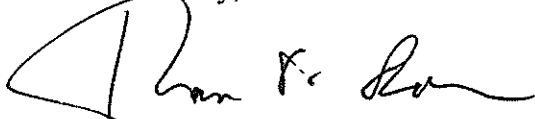
It is estimated there are over 58 million persons in our country today who meet the legal definition of a person with a disability. This includes those who have significant degrees of mobility, sensory, or cognitive limitations. Further, when we consider the growing percentage of our population that is age 65 or older; those with invisible disabilities, such as cardiac and respiratory problems; those who have temporary disabilities, such as broken arms or legs; parents with strollers and wheeled devices, and the families and friends who will be traveling with these individuals, a majority of our nation's population can benefit from accessible facilities and programs.

In recent years the park has made great strides in accommodating people with disabilities or special needs, to ensure that all visitors enjoy a great experience at Sagamore Hill. The Visitor Center and its rest rooms are fully accessible, as is the Theodore Roosevelt Museum in Old Orchard. The park provides transport services, using our "green" electric

vehicles to shuttle visitors with walking disabilities between the visitor attractions. The park has also developed and printed our general unigrid brochure in six languages to accommodate our non-English reading visitors. The work does not stop there. This plan identifies other accessibility deficiencies at the park and provides a range of solutions to mitigate those deficiencies.

As SAHI moves forward on work projects, incorporating accessibility for all will continue to be an integral part of our mission. Providing accessible programs and facilities to the broadest population of our visitors is everyone's task and responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom E. Ross", written over a large, stylized, looped initial or flourish.

Thomas E. Ross
Superintendent

Structures

Sagamore Hill Visitor Center

Functions:

- *Visitor orientation for visitors to the site and rest rooms. The VC is wheelchair accessible.

Deficiencies:

- Entry door mats need adjustment
- Need rails on entry door facing parking lot.
- Retail store: aisles and barrels need to be adjusted for accessibility
- The information and Eastern National (EN) sales desk does not meet regulations for height and there is not enough space between the end of the sales and information desk and the wall to allow for safe passage of staff (poses a safety and health risk)
- TV viewing area not acceptable for viewing film on the TRH (ie. Handicap visitors who are unable to visit TRH), because the area is not large enough and private enough to provide a quality viewing and interpretive experience.

Solutions:

- Clean behind entry door mats and re-set (cut mats as required for tight fit)
- Install railings at front door
- Retail store: always ensure that aisles throughout the bookstore allow at least 39" and enough turning radius for wheelchair bound visitors.
- Re-design the information and EN sales desk to required height and allow for safe passage.
- Do not use the VC TV to show TRH film for handicap visitors; use the OOM AV room to show film.

*The construction of a new visitor center, supported by the park's recently completed General Management Plan (GMP), is the second highest development priority at the site. It has been submitted to the NPS' Line Item Construction (LIC) program.

Theodore Roosevelt Home (TRH)

Functions:

- Visitor Exhibit Area. Guided tours are provided to visitors on the first, second and third floors. The building is not wheelchair accessible.

Deficiencies:

- Need wheelchair accessibility to the home.
- Assisted listening devices need to be incorporated into the tours.

Solutions:

- Construct accessibility to the home.
- Assist listening devices should be incorporated into the tours.
- Permanent ramp or lift (temporary ramp on south face of the home adjacent to porte-cochere mounting platform).
- Procure special rubber mat to even out levels of threshold and saddle for entry door (front door) of TRH.
- Pursue creation of videos/alternative presentations for visitor who can not gain access to home.

Old Orchard Museum (OOM)

Functions:

- Theodore Roosevelt Museum on first floor
- Main Headquarters of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site on second floor.
- Meeting space.
- Offices to the Superintendent, Chief of Cultural Resources, Chief of Interpretation, Administrative Officer and the Administrative offices for the park.
- * Park housing on east wing of the museum (2 units).

Deficiencies:

- No accessible access to the second floor of the building.
- Accessible door on the rear of the building does not have an automatic door opener.
- Areas adjacent to the rear handicap accessible door walkway drop off into the planting bed, potentially creating a safety hazard for a wheelchair bound visitor.
- Men's and women's room door handles should be deeper and horizontal with clearance of 1.5 to 3 in.

- Exhibit does not have a visual description of TR sound recording.
- Exhibit does not have an audio description of the TR videos.
- Museum exhibits do not have an audio loop description of exhibits for the hearing impaired.

* Housing units will be taken up under housing section

Solutions:

- Install an elevator as part of the GMP recommended build-out of the building or as a stand alone project to create universal accessibility to second floor.
- Add automatic door opener to rear door with a handrail.
- The outdoor landing at the rear handicap accessible entrance at the OOM should be widened or at least made level using soil, pavers or cement or other solution as appropriate.
- Improve exhibits to include visual descriptions of sound recordings, audio descriptions of video and an audio loop throughout the exhibit for the hearing impaired.
- Install new door handles on the men's and women's room doors to make easier for wheelchair bound visitor to open doors.

Recent Improvements:

- Crash bars added to wheelchair accessible door.

Maintenance Facility: Old Orchard Garage

Functions:

- *Maintenance Garage and offices for Facility Manager/Chief of Maintenance and staff on the ground floor
- **Housing unit on the second floor

Deficiencies:

- Entrance door to garage is not accessible.
- Restroom is not accessible.
- Path to east entry door is not accessible.
- Many issues in break room that fall into health and safety issues: including placement of appliances, and fire extinguisher.

**Housing units will be taken up under housing section

Solutions:

- Change current entrance door to garage into one that is accessible.
- Construct an accessible path from the driveway to the east entrance door.
- Where feasible, move fire extinguisher and appliances to make walking areas in break room more accessible.
- Make restroom on first floor accessible.*

* The construction of a new maintenance facility, supported by the park's recently completed General Management Plan (GMP), is the number one development priority at the site. It has been submitted to the NPS' Line Item Construction (LIC) program. The project is number one because of deficiencies like these with the existing garage.

Chicken House

Functions:

- Visitor Exhibit Area- visitors can enter the west end of the building to view a static display of farm tools. The room can accommodate only 2-3 people at a time.

Deficiencies:

- The exhibit area door is narrow and there is a step, therefore it is not wheelchair accessible.

Solutions:

- Place a gate at entrance that allows viewing access into exhibit room.
- Consider the use of window boxes or viewing of exhibit items through existing glass windows and/or develop alternative aids to grant access to the exhibit.

Farm Shed (aka Carriage Shed)

Functions:

- Building contains public vending machines.

Deficiencies:

- Building threshold needs correction to provide wheelchair accessibility.

Solutions:

- Fix threshold to allow easier access into building (may require trimming of door when pavement leading to threshold is leveled)

Housing Units (New Barn, Grey Cottage, Foreman's Cottage, Maintenance Garage Loft, OOM east wing)

Functions:

- Housing for park employees

Deficiencies

- Buildings are not accessible.
- No wheelchair access into buildings (steps prevent this from occurring).
- No accessible kitchen and bath facilities

Solutions:

- Consider making accessible at least one park housing unit.

Parking Lots

Functions:

- Provide visitor parking at site. Handicap and wheelchair van accessible spots are provided as required by law.

Deficiencies

- Northeast corner of the main parking lot has an asphalt walkway connecting the parking lot to Old Orchard access road which is not accessible. There is curbing which requires a "step up" to access the walkway.

Solutions:

- Eliminate the section of curbing and re-pave the walkway at existing grade.

Programs

- Introductory film at Old Orchard Museum
- Guided tours of the Theodore Roosevelt Home
- Guided grounds tours
- Interpretive materials and media
- Curriculum-based education programs for school groups

Introductory Film

Functions:

- Film provides an orientation into the family life at Sagamore Hill and political career of Theodore Roosevelt. The audio/visual viewing room is accessible. Film is captioned.

Deficiencies

- Film needs audio descriptions, and assistive listening devices.

Solutions:

- Upgrade film to include audio descriptions, and assistive listening devices.

Guided Tours of TRH

Functions:

Provide an interpretive experience for the public at the Theodore Roosevelt Home (TRH). The TRH is not handicap accessible.

Access to the TRH and the site for individuals with disabilities includes:

- Parking lot and walkways are wheelchair accessible.
- Visitor center is wheelchair accessible.
- Electric vehicle transportation is available between site attractions for visitors with mobility issues (upon request).
- Sign Language interpreter is available for the hearing impaired groups (with 3 weeks notice).

Deficiencies

- TRH is not wheelchair accessible.
- Nothing is currently available for visually impaired visitors.

- Nothing is currently available for hearing impaired visitors (with the exception of hearing impaired groups whereby a sign language interpreter can be arranged with advance notice).

Solutions:

- Construct wheelchair accessibility at TRH.
- Have available audio guides and listening devices.
- Provide items that the visually impaired may be able to touch as part of the interpretive experience in the home.

Grounds Tours

Functions:

- Provide an interpretive experience for the public on the grounds of Sagamore Hill. Pathways in the “core area” of the TRH are mainly asphalt surfaces. The one exception is the pathway to the pet cemetery which is crushed bluestone (not compacted). The park’s two trails (which are used for nature/environmental education tours) 1. Nature Trail and 2. Historic Core nature and cultural trail are not wheelchair accessible.

Deficiencies

- Pet cemetery pathway is not wheelchair accessible.
- Nature/hiking trails are not wheelchair accessible.
- Nothing is currently available for visually impaired visitors.
- Nothing is currently available for hearing impaired visitors (with the exception of hearing impaired groups whereby a sign language interpreter can be arranged with advance notice).

Solutions:

- Construct trail to pet cemetery that meets wheelchair accessibility.
- Investigate potential for creating accessibility on portions of nature trails.
- Have available audio guides and listening aids.

Interpretive materials and media

Functions:

- Provide an interpretive experience for the public on the grounds of Sagamore Hill through interpretive materials and media (ie. brochures, wayside interpretive panels...). Currently the site’s general fulfillment unigrid brochure is available in six languages (English...)

Deficiencies

- Site does not offer large print unigrid brochure or a brail brochure.
- Waysides interpretive panels do not have brail guides or tactile maps and/or features incorporated into design.
- Nothing is currently available for hearing impaired visitors (with the exception of hearing impaired groups whereby a sign language interpreter can be arranged with advance notice).

Solutions:

- Create a large print brochure as well as a brail brochure.
- Site should investigate whether additional translated brochures, beyond the six languages are needed.
- When planning and designing new interpretive wayside panels, create some panels with tactile maps and features with corresponding brail guide for the panels. Consider foreign language guides for the panels as well.
- Have available audio guides and listening aids related to the interpretive wayside panels.

Curriculum Based education programs for school groups**Functions:**

- Provide an educational interpretive experience for students visiting the TRH. Currently the staff offers a number of curriculum based and standard programs for school groups from 2nd graders through high school. The TRH is not accessible, although the OOM can accommodate students using wheelchairs.

Deficiencies

- Nothing is currently available for visually impaired students.
- Nothing is currently available for hearing impaired students (with the exception of hearing impaired groups whereby a sign language interpreter can be arranged with advance notice).
- Environmental educational programs are not accessible.

Solutions:

- Have available audio guides, and assistive listening devices.
- Rethink our environmental education programs to make them accessible.